

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

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P 091215Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1454

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EO 11652: N/A

SUBJ: REACTION TO PRESIDENT NIXON'S RESIGNATION

1. WHILE ESCORTING DEPARTING MALDIVIAN PRIME MINISTER DOWN DIPLOMATIC RECEIVING LINE THIS AFTERNOON SVN PRIME MINISTER BANDARANAIKE STOPPED BRIEFLY TO TELL ME SHE WAS VERY SORRY ABOUT PRESIDENT NIXON'S RESIGNATION. I TOLD HER I APPRECIATED HER SENTIMENTS AND TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO ASSURE HER THAT THERE WOULD BE CONTINUITY IN AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY UNDER PRESIDENT FORD, NOTING THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER HAD AGREED TO REMAIN AS SECRETARY OF STATE.

2. MDFA DEPUTY MINISTER JAYAKODY AND MDFA SECRETARY JAYASINGHE, ALSO PRESENT AT AIRPORT CEREMONY, SEPARATELY VOICED THEIR SORROW OVER PRESIDENTS RESIGNATION. JAYASINGHE SAID BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN US AND SRI LANKA HAD NEVER BEEN BETTER AND NOTED THAT PERSONAL RAPPORT HAD BEEN DEVELOPED BETWEEN MRS BANDARANAIKE AND PRESIDENT NIXON. "NOW WE WILL HAVE TO START ALL OVER," HE ADDED. JAYAKODY PRAISED PRESIDENT

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NIXON'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND

REFERRED TO WARM TONE OF HIS LAST LETTER TO
MRS MBANDARANAIKE (JULY 29 LETTER RE AID). I
ALSO STRESSED TO BOTH OFFICIALS THAT THERE WAS
NO REASON WHATSOEVER TO CONTEMPLATE ANY CHANGE
IN OUR CURRENT RELATIONSHIP WHICH, I AGREED, WERE
VERY GOOD.

3. COMMENT: PRESIDENT NIXON'S FOREIGN POLICIES
HAVE BEEN GREATLY ADMIRER BY PRIME MINISTER AND
HER TOP OFFICIALS AND IT IS OBVIOUS FROM THEIR
COMMENTS THAT THERE IS SOME APPREHENSION ABOUT
FUTURE. I WILL CONTINUE TO STRESS THAT SUCH
CONCERNS ARE UNWARRANTED.
VAN HOLLEN

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